

8. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the COD of the make-up stream is between about 500 and over 2,000 ppm.
10. (TWICE AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Redox potential of the stream entering the cooling tower is in the range 300 – 400 mV.
11. (AMENDED) A cooling tower system comprising, in combination with suitable inlets and outlets:
 - a cooling tower;
 - a heat exchanger;
 - an electrolytic cell that performs oxidation/reduction reactions using DC electrical current for decomposing water and generating chlorine; and
 - at least one filter.
12. (AMENDED) A method for concentrating waste water, comprising feeding said waste water to a cooling tower, causing a side stream taken from the re-circulating stream to pass through an electrolytic cell that performs oxidation/reduction reactions using DC electrical current for decomposing water and generating chlorine, removing solids precipitated by the action of said cell, and remixing said treated side stream with the main stream, before feeding them to the cooling tower.

Please add and consider new claims 17-19 as follows.

17. (NEW) A method of operating a cooling tower, comprising feeding to said cooling tower a make-up stream of water containing organic and/or biological contaminants, causing a side stream taken from the recirculating stream to pass through an electrolytic cell which performs oxidation/reduction reactions using DC electrical current for decomposing water and generating chlorine, removing solids precipitating by the action of said cell, and remixing said treated side stream with the main stream, before feeding them to the cooling tower and further comprising adding a non-oxidizing biocide to the re-circulating stream as an aid in the prevention of biofouling.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein the biocide is added when the Redox potential decreases to a value of about 200 mV or less.
19. (NEW) A method according to claim 17, wherein the biocide is selected from among phenolic biocides, quaternary amines, triazolin, DBNPA (dibromonitrilpropionamide), MIT (methyl izothiazolinone) or MBT.